

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1242  
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007  
LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether participation of local communities in public services is instrumental in achieving better development outcomes; and
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to improve the community participation in the public delivery of education services?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b) : The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides that local communities, through appropriate bodies, will be assigned a major role in programmes of school improvement.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the national flagship programme launched in 2001-2002 for achieving the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) through a time-bound approach in partnership with States and local bodies. It is also an attempt to provide an opportunity for improving capability of all children (6-14 years age) through the provision of community-owned quality education.

The framework for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan assigns the greatest importance to systematic mobilization of the community and creation of an effective system of decentralized participation and supervision. The setting up of and flow of funds for school related matters are mandated through Village Education Committees or their equivalent. Under SSA more than 50% of funds flow through community based bodies for all school related expenditures. The community members are oriented and sensitised on their roles and functions for monitoring, supervision and execution of school related tasks in elementary education, as well as monitoring school effectiveness and enrolling out of school children. The SSA framework has been amended to ensure centrality of Panchayats in monitoring and supervision of SSA by requiring States to indicate specific supervisory roles over the elementary education programme at all tiers of the Panchayati Raj Institutions at district and sub-district levels, especially in States where PR Institutions have not been delineated such tasks.